



6 September 2005

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

We are now in our third quarter of the calendar year and as in the past, tempo continues at an extraordinary rate. We are currently in the midst of our semi annual turnover. For some your loved ones are headed home, for others you are just beginning your separation. To both groups I extend my heartfelt thanks.

As I write this, our country is fighting a global war, assisting nations in need and beginning the long recovery from the ravages brought to our shores by Hurricane Katrina. To all those who have suffered a loss, we extend our deepest sympathies and our prayers.

We continue to wage peace throughout the Area of Responsibility (AOR). Your loved ones have operated in Yemen, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, and Comoros. They have trained our host nations in counter-terrorism and border security, they have refurbished hospitals and clinics, they have built libraries and they held medical civic programs. In each country they have garnered support for our cause and established a greater degree of stability.

To date we have completed the following projects across the AOR: 14 Wells, 23 Clinics, 61 Schools, 11 Medical/Veterinarian Civic Action Programs, and 30 minor projects to renovate or repair existing schools, community centers, and roads. CJTF-HOA staff also played an instrumental role in the establishment of the "Golden Spear" center for natural disaster preparedness and humanitarian relief in Nairobi Kenya, the first center of its kind. Golden Spear will be the regional resource clearing house for countries on the Horn of Africa in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. Additionally our Chaplain has held conferences with our neighbors Kenya and the Comoros, discussing the need for tolerance and acceptance. Over the next quarter we will substantially increase our projects.

I am truly grateful for your support and your sacrifices. Your patriotism, dedication and understanding will surely bring us victory. God bless you all and God Bless the United States of America.

Semper Fidelis

T. F. Ghormley
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commander, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa

